

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 checking a state of a control bit that specifies whether to
 - 3 assemble an output from multiple virtual tributary (VT1.5/VT2)
 - 4 or tributary unit (TU11/TU12) connections or handle the output
 - 5 as an synchronous transport signal (STS) or administrative
 - 6 unit (AU-3/AU-4) connection; and
 - 7 switching a predetermined number of entries together based
 - 8 on a state of the control bit.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the control bit is set by a
- 2 programmer.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising
- 2 handling the output as an STS connection when the control
- 3 bit is set.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising
- 2 assembling the output from multiple VT/TU connections when
- 3 the control bit is not set.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising
- 2 handling the output as an AU-3/AU-4 connection when the
- 3 control bit is not set.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising
- 2 assembling the output from multiple VT connections when the
- 3 control bit is set.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising
- 2 storing the control bit in a connection memory.

- 1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the
2 control bit in a register.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising
2 checking a state of a second control bit.
- 1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the second control bit is
2 associated with independent and concatenated payloads.
- 1 11. The method of claim 9 further comprising
2 cross-connecting a second payload with a first payload if
3 the second control bit is set.
- 1 12. The method of claim 9 further comprising
2 cross-connecting a second payload with a first payload if
3 the second control bit is not set.
- 1 13. The method of claim 9 further comprising storing the
2 second control bit in a connection memory.
- 1 14. The method of claim 9 further comprising storing the
2 second control bit in a register.
- 1 15. The method of claim 8 further comprising
2 checking the second control bit only if the first control
3 bit is set.
- 1 16. A computer program product tangible embodied on a
2 computer readable medium, for provisioning cross-connects
3 in network switching environment comprising instructions
4 for causing a computer to:

5 check a state of a control bit that specifies whether to
6 assemble an output from multiple virtual tributary/tributary
7 unit (VT/TU) connections or handle the output as an
8 synchronous transport signal (AU-3/AU-4) connection; and
9 switch a predetermined number of entries together based on
10 a state of the control bit.

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1 17. The computer program product of claim 16 wherein the
2 control bit is set by a programmer.

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2 comprising instructions to:
3 store the control bit in a connection memory.

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3 19. The computer program product of claim 16 further
comprising instructions to store the control bit in a
register.

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2 20. The computer program product of claim 16 further
3 comprising instructions to:
4 check a state of a second control bit that is associated
with independent and concatenated payloads.

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2 21. The computer program product of claim 16 further
3 comprising instructions to store the second control bit in
a connection memory.

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2 22. The computer program product of claim 16 further
3 comprising instructions to store the second control bit in
a register.

1 23. The computer program product of claim 16 further
2 comprising instructions to:
3 check the second control bit only if the first control bit
4 is set.

1 24. Apparatus comprising:
2 a memory including a control bit that specifies whether to
3 assemble an output from multiple virtual tributary (VT)
4 connections or handle the output as an synchronous transport
5 signal (STS) connection;
6 a circuit to check the state of the control bit; and
7 control circuitry that uses a second memory to switch a
8 predetermined number of entries together based on a state of
9 the control bit.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the control circuitry
2 is configured to handle the output as an STS connection
3 when the control bit is set

1 26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the control circuitry
2 is configured to assemble the output from multiple VT
3 connections when the control bit is not set.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the memory includes a
2 second control bit that specifies whether payloads are
3 independent or concatenated, and the control circuit is
4 configured to switch a predetermined number of payloads
5 together based on a state of the second control bit.